

1	2	3	4	5
South-Eastern Rly.	491	619	4	1114
Western Rly	308	534	79	921
Total	2387	4313	209	6909

The requirements of locomotives are assessed for the Indian Railways as a whole. The requirement of locomotives to meet increasing passenger and goods traffic in the next five years (1997-2002) would be 900 diesel locomotives and 1050 electric locomotives. Out of these 400 diesel locos and 200 electric locos would be on replacement account and 100 locos each be released by induction of DMUs/MEMUs.

(b) It has been planned to procure 400 diesel locomotives and 200 electric locomotives on replacement account during the IX Plan as the longevity of these locomotives cannot be extended by technological upgradation as these locos are of 1950s/1960s vintage.

(c) The total funds for procurement of diesel and electric locomotives in the IX Five Year Plan has been assessed to be Rs 8,629 crores. The above funds are proposed to be mobilised through internal generation, budgetary support, BOLT (Build, Own Lease and Transfer) scheme and market borrowings by IRFC (Indian Railways Financial Corporation).

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) 33 Nos. (including 3 locos in lieu of spares) three-phase drive state-of-the-art '6,000 HP' A.C. electric locos have been procured from M/s. ABB, Switzerland, under Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan and EXIM Bank, Japan loan along with transfer of technology. It is proposed to upgrade and modernise the loco manufacturing capacity at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, for manufacture of these types of electric locos. So also 21 Nos. (including 1 loco in lieu of spares) '4,000 HP' state-of-the-art diesel locos are being procured from M/s. General Motors, U.S.A along with transfer of technology. A proposal to upgrade/modernise manufacturing capacity at Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi is under examination.

Corruption in Telephone Department

*278. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of large-scale corruption prevailing in the telephone department resulting in colossal loss of revenue to the department and large-scale cheating of telephone subscribers and other consumers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to remedy the situation;

(c) whether the Government propose to consider the cooperation of the Trade Unions to deal with this problem; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, complaints are received from time to time alleging irregularities of various types. These are investigated by Departmental Vigilance machinery and by the CBI, wherever necessary and suitable action is taken against departmental officials, if any involved, in such an irregularity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Investigation of complaints is a confidential process in which association of the Trade Unions is not considered proper.

Broadcasting Bill

* 279. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sub-committee constituted to examine the Broadcasting Bill, has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) No sub-committee has been constituted on Broadcasting Bill. However, various issues pertaining to Broadcasting Bill are under examination at various levels of the Government.

• Introduction of Private Airlines

*280. SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the introduction of private airlines the quantum of air traffic carried by national airlines has declined;

(b) if so, the measures being proposed by the Government to attract passengers towards national airlines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines has taken various steps to face the competition and attract the passengers through